

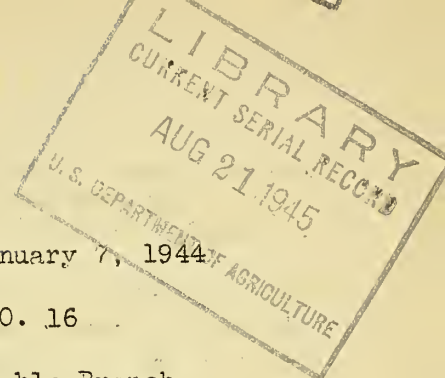
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January 7, 1944

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BRANCH MEMORANDUM NO. 16

To: Regional Directors and Chiefs of Fruit and Vegetable Branch

From: C. F. Kunkel, Assistant Chief, Fruit and Vegetable Branch

Subject: Regional Office-Branch Relationship with Reference to the Functions and Assignments of the Regulatory Division of the Branch

Proposals to decentralize some of the functions and assignments of work in connection with the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, the Produce Agency Act, the Export Apple and Pear Act and the Standard Containers Act of 1916 and 1928 have been carefully studied and it has been determined that, for the present, direction of these activities shall continue to flow from Washington.

The work of the Branch in connection with the three latter acts is now very light, but the work pertaining to the administration of the PACA is heavy and the administration of that Act has been carefully considered from the standpoint of its adaptability to a regionalized system of operation. The following factors have contributed to the decision that the PACA work should be controlled and administered from a central point for the country at large; (1) the necessity for the maintenance of a central card index containing pertinent information on approximately 100,000 licensees and potential applicants; (2) violations (of magnitude) by firms automatically precludes or otherwise affects, for a given period, the issuing of licences to individuals connected with the firm; (3) the necessity for careful analyses of the record of each applicant before issuing licences; (4) the degree of inter-regional movement of individuals going from one shipping point to another as the seasons change.

On the matter of complaints and investigations there are now four field offices, strategically located, which receive complaints and collaborate with the Washington office for appropriate action.

The offices referred to are located as follows:

Portland, Oregon	Mr. W. A. Hilgeson	310 U. S. Court House
Los Angeles, Cal.	J. W. Dykes	294 Whlse. Terminal Bldg.
Chicago, Illinois	W. G. Lensen	1421 S. Aberdeen Street
New York, New York	R. H. Shoemaker	806 Fruit Trade Bldg.
		204 Franklin Street

All of these offices are reporting directly to the branch and at this time it appears that very little could be gained by arranging for them to report through the regional offices.

When the Regional officers receive complaints regarding alleged violation of the PACA, the complaint should be forwarded to the nearest PACA office. In the Southern region complaints should be sent to Washington except that cases arising in the state of Florida may be referred to Mr. Elmer A. Albritton, P. O. Box 981, Winter Haven, Florida.

While the Branch has found it inexpedient to decentralize these regulatory activities, it seems highly necessary that the regions continue such administrative services as are possible and consistent with this memorandum including personnel, space, office supplies and equipment.

*W. F. Kunkel*

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